

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication module used in Fast Ethernet (R) comprising:  
a retimer controlling a physical layer; and  
a microcomputer performing general control of said communication  
module, wherein

5       said microcomputer includes:

      a storing portion storing a copy of a register having a value updated  
by said retimer in accordance with predetermined timing, and

      an input/output portion outputting the copy of the register stored in  
said storing portion to a host device in accordance with a request by said  
10     host device.

2. The communication module according to claim 1, wherein  
said storing portion further stores contents of a register defined by  
10-Gb Ethernet (R) communication module multi-source agreement.

3. The communication module according to claim 1, wherein  
said microcomputer further includes a nonvolatile memory in which  
the copy of the register stored in said storing portion is written in  
accordance with predetermined timing.

4. A communication module for use in Fast Ethernet (R)  
comprising:

      a retimer for controlling a physical layer; and

5       first and second microcomputers performing general control of said  
communication module, wherein

      said first microcomputer includes:

      a first storing portion storing a copy of a register having a value  
updated by said retimer in accordance with predetermined timing, and

      a first input/output portion outputting the copy of the register stored  
10     in said first storing portion to a host device in accordance with a request by  
said host device; and

said second microcomputer includes:

a second storing portion storing contents of a register defined by 10-Gb Ethernet (R) communication module multi-source agreement, and

15        a second input/output portion outputting the contents stored in said second storing portion to said host device in accordance with a request by said host device.

5. The communication module according to claim 4, wherein  
said first microcomputer further includes a first nonvolatile memory  
in which the copy of the register stored in said first storing portion is  
written in accordance with predetermined timing.

6. The communication module according to claim 4, wherein  
said second microcomputer further includes a second nonvolatile  
memory in which the contents stored in said second storing portion are  
written in accordance with predetermined timing.